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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

28 October 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Walt W. Rostow
Special Assistant to the President

The Honorable Dean Rusk
Secretary of State

SUBJECT: Views of Vice President Ky as of 27 October 1968 on the Proposed Bombing Halt

1. The following information was obtained on 27 October 1968 [redacted] (b)(1) (b)(3)

a. Vice President Ky says that the only thing holding up a full accord between the USG and the GVN on the bombing halt is Ambassador Bunker's insistence on maintaining the exact wording of the US-proposed joint communique. Thieu and Ky have agreed to endorse the proposed communique if a sentence is added saying that Presidents Thieu and Johnson agreed to the bombing halt because they expect it will lead shortly to direct and serious talks between the DRV and the GVN. Ambassador Bunker agreed to sound Washington out on this addition, but held out little hope that it would be accepted there.

b. Ky is wondering again if the American rigidity is evidence that the USG has already given firm commitments on conditions for a bombing halt. Ky is concerned about protecting Vietnamese sovereignty and is not trying to make personal political capital out of the negotiations. Thieu and Ky both feel their heavy responsibilities to the Vietnamese people. Both want to accommodate the USG, but not at the expense of the national interest.

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2. [redacted] Ky might be persuaded to accept an integrated US/GVN delegation at Paris if the US would pledge to oppose the cession of any SVN territory in a peace settlement and guarantee its non-recognition of the NLF as a separate entity at any time during the talks. [redacted] if Ambassador Bunker outlines clearly what the USG feels it must have and why, and gives assurances of this nature to Thieu and Ky, both would agree to go along. (b)(1) (b)(3) (b)(1) (b)(3)

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